

## *Impact Evaluation on Land Use*

**The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.**

### **Background**

TVA is conducting a formal evaluation of its policies for operating the Tennessee River reservoir system, including an analysis of the economic impacts of any potential changes in these policies. Existing policies affect how much reservoir levels fluctuate, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year, depending on rainfall.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value. Technical analyses will be performed to evaluate the impacts of TVA's current policies and the potential impacts of alternatives on a number of resource areas and other issues.

The two-year Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

The impacts on land use will be evaluated as part of the ROS, and the results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA will conduct the study in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

### **Potential Impacts**

- This evaluation is important because the landscapes adjacent to and around the Tennessee River system are extremely diverse and support a variety of uses. The land sustains countless natural systems and provides for agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, resource conservation, and recreational uses.
- A change in reservoir operations could change the current use of the shoreland in a particular location.
- Changes in land-use patterns may affect other resource areas, such as water quality, erosion and sedimentation, visual appeal, and terrestrial ecology.

### **Geographic Area**

- The impacts on land use will be evaluated for all public and private shorelands within one-quarter mile of TVA reservoirs and tailwater areas.
- The effects could extend beyond this impact zone, and these analyses could include a larger region of influence.

### **Scope of Analysis**

- A baseline quantitative assessment of land uses within the primary region of influence will be conducted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.
- A qualitative assessment of the impacts of current reservoir system operating policies and alternatives on shoreland use will also be conducted. The qualitative assessment will be based on information contained in census data, previous TVA studies, shoreline management data, and TVA Reservoir Land Management Plans.

### **For More Information**

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at [www.tva.com](http://www.tva.com), to call toll-free 888-882-7675, to fax TVA at 865-632-3146, or to write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, Tennessee Valley Authority, c/o WT 11A, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902.